

## CLAIMS

We claim:

5 1. A method for increasing the viscosity of a petroleum distillate, said method comprising adding to said petroleum distillate a shear-thinning thixotropic thickener.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the thixotropic thickener is selected from the group consisting of a mixture comprising from about 2 percent to about 30 percent of a triblock copolymer with from about 70 percent to about 98 percent of a hydrocarbon oil, and N-Lauroyl glutamic acid di-n-butylamide.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the thixotropic thickener comprises a triblock copolymer, and said thickener comprises from about 0.1 to about 15 percent by weight of the composition.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the thixotropic thickener further comprises a diblock copolymer.

5 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the petroleum distillate initially has a viscosity of less than about 130 SUS at 100° F.

25 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the petroleum distillate is selected from the group consisting of mineral oils, mineral spirits, naphthalene, and vegetable oils.

30 7. A method for increasing the viscosity of a mineral oil, said method comprising adding to said mineral oil an effective amount of a shear-thinning thixotropic thickener.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the thixotropic thickener is selected from the group consisting of a mixture comprising from about 2 percent to about 30

percent of triblock copolymer with from about 70 percent to about 98 percent of hydrocarbon oil, and N-Lauroyl glutamic acid di-n-butylamide.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the thixotropic thickener comprises a triblock copolymer.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the thixotropic thickener further comprises a diblock copolymer.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the petroleum distillate has a viscosity of less than about 130 SUS at 100° F.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the petroleum distillate is selected from the group consisting of mineral oils, mineral spirits, naphthalene, and vegetable oils.

13. A non-aqueous petroleum distillate product suitable for dispensing through a spray mechanism, said product comprising a petroleum distillate and a shear-thinning thixotropic thickener.

14. A product as set forth in claim 13, wherein said thixotropic thickener is selected from the group consisting of a mixture comprising from about 2 percent to about 30 percent of a triblock copolymer with from about 70 percent to about 98 percent of a hydrocarbon oil, and N-Lauroyl glutamic acid di-n-butylamide.

15. A product as set forth in claim 14, wherein said thixotropic thickener is present in an amount of from about 0.2 to about 12 percent by weight of the composition.

16. A product as set forth in claim 15, wherein said petroleum distillate is selected from the group consisting of mineral oils, mineral spirits, naphthalene, and vegetable oils.

17. A product as set forth in claim 16, wherein said petroleum distillate is a mineral oil.

18. A product as set forth in claim 16, selected from the group consisting of furniture oils; furniture polishes and cleaners; baby oils; sunscreens; nail enamel  
dryers; hair oils; bath, body and massage oils; makeup removers; gasoline  
additives; fuel injection cleaners; carburetor cleaners; cleaning solvents; water  
repellents; and general household oil.

19. A product as set forth in claim 18, comprising a furniture oil wherein said petroleum distillate is a mineral oil, and said thixotropic thickener comprises from about 2 percent to about 30 percent of a triblock copolymer and from about 70 percent to about 98 percent of a hydrocarbon oil.

20. A product as set forth in claim 19, wherein said thickener comprises from about 0.2 to about 9 percent by weight of the product.